

*Franklin* 1947  
ON EVENING TIMES, TUESDAY, JANUARY 14,

## ***Pole Posing As U. S. Officer, Held Under Bail, Says Offense Would Spell Death In Europe***

John Palanski, 19-year-old Polish youth charged with impersonating an officer and obtaining army funds fraudulently, was held in \$1,000 bail late yesterday by United States Commissioner Walter B. Petry in the Federal Building.

The young defendant was still garbed in army clothes although the insignia, ribbons and decorations had been removed by FBI agents who are handling the case.

His English is almost flawless and he speaks with only a trace of an accent. He picked up the language while living with American troops in France for two years.

"We're not going to shoot you for this, you understand," Commissioner Petry told him. "We don't do those things over here."

Palanski looked relieved.

"What would they do to you if some other country had you in Europe?" asked Raymond J. Gornham, FBI agent.

"I'd have been dead a long time ago," remarked Palanski.

Palanski, according to the Gov-

ernment, traveled in France from Stuttgart, Germany disguised as an army second lieutenant, carrying travel orders he had prepared for himself.

He pilfered from a soldier companion on the train flight orders to the United States and landed in Washington on November 29. He collected \$135.40 in pay on another soldier's accounts, visited in New York, and then came back to Fort Dix and drew \$405 in pay using still another soldier's identity. This was spent in a good time in the West. When he ran out of funds, agents said, he returned to Fort Dix for another batch of pay.

That's when he got into trouble. It seems that the name of the soldier he used to draw pay had arrived in person at Fort Dix and had quite a time explaining that he had not drawn his pay.

The authorities began an investigation and kept a sharp watch. They figured that Palanski might come back for more money. They guessed right.

## **Van Riper Victor In Court Battle**

NEWARK—Judge John C. Knox has ordered dismissals of four federal indictments charging Attorney General Van Riper with a check-kiting conspiracy and violating government gasoline rationing regulations, thus "closing" further prosecution of the state official and three co-defendants.

Knox signed the order in the local U. S. District Court at the request of U. S. Attorney Edgar H. Rossbach, who told the judge the government did not think "any real use" would result in further prosecution in view of what had happened in previous trials.

The first check-kiting indictment accused Van Riper, his secretary, Mrs. Florence Grim Bennett, and William F. Redpath, cashier of the First National Bank of Orange, of misapplying bank funds.

The second indictment, also alleging misappropriation of bank funds, named the same three and bail bondsman Abe Scher. The third indictment, alleging use of the mails to defraud, named Van Riper, Scher and Redpath.

The gasoline rationing indictment named only Van Riper.

In a trial that started on May 28, 1945, John Praml, manager of Van Riper's West Orange Imperial Service Station in West Orange, was sentenced to 16 months in prison and the company was fined \$15,000. This was on the gasoline violation charge.

A second trial, that started November 29, 1946, saw check-kiting conspiracy charges dismissed against Van Riper, Scher, Redpath and Mrs. Bennett.

*Deaton*  
*1/16/47*